

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Very Reverend Daniel P. Richards, Rector

Dear People of Grace,

During this year's stewardship campaign, gratitude is our focus. Personally, I have received three real manifestations of gratitude.

The "Resurrection Symphony," written by Gustav Mahler, is a glorious piece of music about the promise of resurrection. I remember the night when I first heard this Symphony performed. The promise of resurrection after death was brought home to me in a personal way that I will never forget. I listen to the music often and am always overcome with gratitude for God's promise entering my life.

John Newton wrote "Amazing Grace" as personal testimony of how God's forgiveness and redemption can affect an individual. When I first heard this hymn, I was home on vacation from college. I felt as if the personal nature of this hymn was speaking directly to me. Once again I had this overwhelming sense of gratitude.

For some reason, God has set Anne and me in Traverse City and, most importantly, in Grace Episcopal Church. I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude for our opportunity to participate in this community. The congregation has made me realize the importance of the need to do more than just attend church. Thanks to Grace, I now believe that my Christian responsibility is to Welcome, Worship, Study and Serve. Every now and then I stop and think about how this community has nurtured me, and I am overcome by the increasing familiar sense of gratitude.

During the next several weeks, you will read daily reflections in the Devotional Guide and hear stories about the gratitude felt by many members of this parish. These people will share how their lives are grounded in gratitude, revealed in prayer, and lived in faith.

The Stewardship Committee and the Vestry have read about, discussed and have come to realize that giving is an important aspect of growing into grace and gratitude. As we go though the next four weeks, we hope you will review the enclosed materials and prayerfully approach your consideration of giving and tithing. The collective decisions we reach on Commitment Weekend, November 22 and 23, will be an important reflection of our gratitude and about who—and whose—we are.

Faithfully yours,

Bill Montgomery, for the Stewardship Committee



Growing into Grace

Find out how close you are to a tithe

then slide up to see your current percentage of giving. How might God be calling you to move your monthly giving closer to 10% or even Start by finding your approximate annual income on the left side of the page. Slide over until you reach your approximate monthly gift, beyond?

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of Grace Episcopal Church A Revealing Breakdown of the Giving Patterns 176 pledging units mbrs \$4.99/wk for the year 2014 12 mbrs 9.99/wk 16 mbrs 19.99/wk 24 mbrs 29.99/wk \$10-20 mbrs 39.99/wk 14 mbrs 49.99/wk 23 mbrs 74.99/wk 23 mbrs 99.99/wk 18 mbrs \$149.99/ Jwk \$100 -19 mbrs \$199.99/ _wk \$150 -4 mbrs more/ wk \$200 or 3 mbrs

Growing into Grace

Will you grow one step this year?